

M. Tanaka et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/841,666
Page 7 of 8

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 10-12 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 6-9 have been amended, and new claims 13-16 have been added by the present amendment. The amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed (see, e.g., page 21, lines 1-9; page 24, lines 11-20; and FIGS. 2-5).

As amended, claims 6-9 of the Applicants' claimed invention recite an apparatus and method for producing an optical film in which a plurality of rows of concave or convex portions are defined with ridge lines that are inclined at a predetermined angle of between about 10-80° relative to a circumferential direction of the die roller, where the circumferential direction is parallel to a rotation axis of the die roller, e.g., as indicated by the angle θ , and the ridge lines form a straight line (see FIGS. 2-3; see also page 21, lines 1-9 and page 24, lines 11-20 of the specification).

New claims 13-16 further recite that the predetermined angle of inclination is between about 10-40° (see, e.g., specification at page 21, lines 9-11).

Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 11-147255 to "Michiharu". This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Michiharu does not teach or suggest an apparatus or method for producing an optical film in which a cylindrical die roller is formed with a plurality of concave or convex portions having ridge lines inclined at 10-80° with respect to a circumferential direction of the die roller, where the circumferential direction is parallel to a rotation axis of the die roller, and the ridge lines of adjacent concave or convex portions form a straight line.

On page 2 of the Office Action of 11/18/2005, the Examiner recommended that the terms "ridge lines" and "circumferential direction" be further defined. As amended, the Applicants' claimed invention defines these terms, and clearly distinguishes over the Michiharu reference.

M. Tanaka et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/841,666
Page 8 of 8

With reference to the page of the Office Action labeled "Attachments" – in which "circumferential direction" and "ridge lines" are marked on FIG. 3(a) of Michiharu, it is apparent that the direction marked in FIG. 3(a) is **not** parallel to the rotation axis of the pattern roller 1. Also, the "ridge lines" marked in FIG. 3(a) form a zig-zag shape, and thus adjacent ridge lines do **not** form a straight line, as recited in independent claims 6-9.

In contrast, the Applicants' claimed invention requires the ridge lines to be inclined relative to a circumferential direction of the die roller, where the circumferential direction is parallel to a rotation axis of the die roller, and the ridge lines form a straight line.

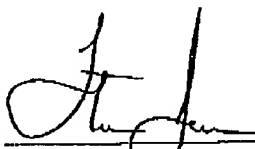
For at least the reasons discussed above, the Michiharu reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 20, 2006

By: _____


Steven M. Jensen
(Reg. No. 42,693)

Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205

Phone: (617) 439-4444

Customer No. 21874